Leave of absence to Member.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I have received a letter from Sri G. N. Desai, a member of the Assembly, requesting for leave of Absence from attending the current sittings of the Assembly due to his ill-health.

1-00 P.M.

I have received another letter from Sri M. Y. Ghorpade, member of the Assembly requesting for leave of absence from attending the Assembly from 6th March, 1965 till the close of the session as he is proceeding to Delhi to attend the meetings of the Consultative Council on Panchayat Raj.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly that leave be granted to Sri G. N. Desai and Sri M. Y. Ghorpade, to remain absent from attending the current sittings of the Assembly ?

HON'BLE MEMBERS.—Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Permission to remain absent is granted.

Calling Attention Notice *re.* Non-supply of Foodgrains to Card holders of Udipi.

Sri B. BHASKARA SHETTY (Kaup).—I call the attention of the Minister for Revenue to the non-supply of foodgrains to the card holders of Udipi and to the hunger strike by the Municipal Councillors of Udipi.

Sri M. V. KRISHNAPPA (Minister for Revenue).—The Chairman, Municipal Council, Udipi, had sent a telegram intimating that the Council had resolved unanimously to undertake fast in batches of five from 16th March 1965 near the Taluk Office if the promised informal rationing of foodgrains was not introduced in the town by 15th March 1965.

I may make it clear at the outset that no such promise about introduction of informal rationing in Udipi Town with immediate effect had been given by us at any time. As the House is aware, Government have already taken action to procure paddy and jowar. According to the present indications, we expect that we would be able to procure 1,50,000 tonnes of paddy (which will be equivalent to 1,00,000 tonnes of rice) and 1,00,000 tonnes of jowar. The Government of India have promised to give us 1,50,000 tonnes of rice and an equal quantity of wheat during the current calendar year, *viz.*, 1965. Government hope that with the paddy rice and jowar procured locally and with the rice and wheat which they hope to get from the Government of India they would be able to ensure that the vulnerable section of the community could be provided with a steady though inadequate supply of foodgrains. With this end in view we have framed a programme for introducing